

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Panniccia, Chair; Manuel Ayala, Denise Taylor-Moye; Carlos Silva, Robert Walsh (6:19 p.m.)

OTHERS: Tyrone McClain, Office of the Mayor; Mr. Dunn, Director of Personnel; Alanna Kabel, Atty. J. Passaretti, Jr., Monstream & May, LLP; Council Member Angel dePara (7:30 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Vizzo-Panniccia called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes: January 04, 2010 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 04, 2010 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2010 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2010 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

08-09 Appointment of Cynthia S. Maignan (D) to Board of Assessment Appeals.

Ms. Maignan came forward and greeted the Commission. Ms. Maignan said that she was born and raised in Bridgeport and had degrees from Sacred Heart and Southern Connecticut. She has been interested in civic work and is beginning to explore this through this application. Ms. Maignan has worked as a paralegal in the past. She said that she would be learning about how the Board works and wants to understand the process.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 08-09 APPOINTMENT OF CYNTHIA S. MAIGNAN (D) TO BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13-09 Proposed Approval of 2010-2012 Citizens' Union Committee

Ms. Kabel came forward and reminded everyone that it was time to appoint the members of the Citizen Union. There are numerous meetings for the members between now and April and then only a few times after that. She then said that there were nine recommendations currently and there were a few more slots open. Council Member Silva then gave Ms. Kabel two names.

Mr. Walsh joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 13-09 PROPOSED APPROVAL OF 2010-2012 CITIZENS' UNION COMMITTEE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE DEADLINE BE HELD OPEN UNTIL FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH, AT ONE P.M. FOR CONFIRMATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 1-09 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

19-09 Proposed Worker's Compensation Stipulation between the City of Bridgeport and Ronald F. Debiase.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED WORKER'S COMPENSATION STIPULATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND RONALD F. DEBIASE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee and Atty. Passaretti entered into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. and returned to public session at 7:20 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT
CONTINGENT ON THE MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE MEETING WITH
CITY ATTORNEY ANASTASI PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 1ST.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

28-09 Proposed revision to Civil Service Commission Rule IV Fees

Mr. Dunn came forward and greeted the Committee. He explained that under the Charter, the rules and regulations are approved by the Committee first before they go to the Council. When examinations are given, there is a charge of \$10 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. This rule has not been changed in the last ten to fifteen years. There is a recruitment campaign underway for new police officers. The Chief would like to hire two classes of 20 police officers. The physical agility tests will be given during the month of April, another test will be done in May and these will winnow down the applicants. It costs about \$3,000 from the City to hire the one police officer. 40 officers will cost about \$120,000. It is expected that there will be over 1,000 applicants. The Federal court has ruled that the City must focus on City residents. This has been done in the past by charging the exam fees. Mr. Dunn said that Hartford, New Haven and others have been charging about \$100 test fee. There is a hardship application for those who cannot pay the testing fee, which will continue. Mr. Dunn then reviewed the remaining details of the process, including those applicants who are fluent in a second language, those who are residents or graduated from Bridgeport schools. It will be important not to discriminate against non-residents. The first step that needs to be taken is to update the fees for the tests. The Police Commission has recommended a new fee schedule of \$100 for residents and \$250 for non-residents.

Council Member dePara joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Dunn explained that the physical agility test (CHIPS) is administered by a third party company and the test fee goes directly to them. The general thinking is that the physical agility test should be passed first.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed the information packet with the Committee members. He then said that he had gone to a job fair at the Marriott Hotel earlier in the day and that there were thousands of people there looking for jobs. With so many possible applicants, the City simply can't subsidize these tests for that number of applicants. The applicant must present a Pre-certification card stating that the applicant had passed a CHIPS exam within the last six months. By having the third party group handle the physical agility portion, the City is not liable for anything that may happen to an applicant during the test. The final candidates that are hired will cost the City more than \$3,000 per officer.

Mr. Dunn explained that the advertising for the position will be done all over the nation and available to the Bridgeport residents who are serving in the National Guard.

When the Commission approved the resolution to change the fee, there was an issue that the applicant that required a waiver would sign a promissory note regarding paying the City back for the amount of funds expended in training. There was some discussion about this issue.

Mr. Dunn then reviewed the details of the resolution with the Committee. He said that approximately two thirds of the police officers and firefighters do not live in Bridgeport. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia asked what would happen in the event of a major evacuation where the firefighters and the police officers were out of town and unable to get to the City. Mr. Dunn said that the City needs to have something to offer the residents. Council Member dePara said that he knew of some applicants who take the test in Bridgeport because it costs less. The applicant then goes through a portion of the process and then transfers the results to the departments that they want to join.

Mr. Dunn explained that typically the City hires officers for a minimum of 25 years. Following that, the City pays insurance of 1.4 million over the term of the officer's life. Combined together with the salary and other benefits, the City is paying an officer that serves for 25 years with two or three promotions over 5 million dollars. The major portion of the funding comes from the taxpayers of Bridgeport.

Mr. Dunn then gave a very brief overview of the COPS grant. He said that the City officials met with the Federal government representatives recently. Council Member Silva said that he was aware that the City does not go after many Federal grants as aggressively as the City should.

He then requested that the Committee approve the resolution as submitted.

Council Member Walsh asked for the definition of "residency". Mr. Dunn said that there were legal standards that would apply. Now a thorough Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) background check will be done. This will identify any applicant that claimed to be a resident and was not. It will also disqualify an applicant from the program.

Council Member Walsh said that he did not see where Bridgeport was competitive. Mr. Dunn reviewed the fees with the Committee. Council Member Walsh said that he was concerned that the residents would not be able to pay the \$100 fee. Discussion followed. Mr. Dunn suggested that the residents pay \$35 for the exam fee and the \$65 CHIPS fee.

Council Member dePara asked what would happen if someone tried to use a family member for residence requirements. Mr. Dunn said that OIA would identify those candidates.

Council Member Brannelly asked for clarification on the CHIPS test. Mr. Dunn reviewed the details of the test.

Council Member Walsh asked about residency preferences for promotions. Mr. Dunn said that there were union issues involved.

Council Member Ayala asked for clarification regarding the additional fees. Mr. Dunn said that he was working on having these details worked out for the February 1st Council meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE THE LANGUAGE IN THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION WITH MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE CITY ATTORNEY WITH THE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RESIDENT \$100 FEE INCLUDES THE \$65 CHIPS (CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND INJURY PROTECTION SERVICE) FEE AND THE NON RESIDENT FEE DOES NOT PENDING FINAL LANGUAGE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY INCLUDED IN THE SECOND PAGE OF THE COUNCIL RULES FOR FEES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR MOYE MOVED TO RECESS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The committee entered recess at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services